
In the United States lawyers for Raed Jarrar, an airline passenger forced to cover his T-shirt because it displayed an Arabic script, say he has been awarded almost a quarter of a million dollars in compensation. From Washington, Rajini Vaidyanathan reports:

Lawyers representing Raed Jarrar say the **payout** is a victory for free speech and a blow to **the practice of racial profiling**. Back in 2006 Mr Jarrar was waiting to board a flight at New York's JFK airport wearing a T-shirt that read "We Will Not Be Silent" in English and Arabic.

His lawyers claim he was ordered to remove the item of clothing by staff who said other passengers felt uncomfortable with the Arabic **slogan**. He eventually agreed to cover the shirt and boarded the plane, but says he was made to sit at the back. The Transport Security Authority and JetBlue airlines agreed **to settle the case**, paying out a total of \$240,000 in compensation.

The American Civil Liberties Union, which represented Mr Jarrar, **argues that this case is not isolated**. It follows an incident last week in the United States where a Muslim family were **ordered off** a domestic flight operated by AirTran airlines after passengers claimed they were making **suspicious** remarks about security. The group was later **cleared** by the FBI, but were not permitted to fly with the airline to continue their journey.

Rajini Vaidyanathan, BBC News, Washington

Vocabulary and definitions

payout	a large sum of money paid to someone (here, as compensation)
the practice of racial profiling	forming opinions on people, or holding stereotypes of them based on their ethnic backgrounds
slogan	a short catchy phrase that reflects the ideas, principles and/or goals of someone, usually an organisation or a group of people
to settle the case	to pay the money claimed in order to stop further disagreement
argues that this case is not isolated	says this is not the only example of a similar situation/problem
ordered off	officially told to get off
suspicious	here, making you feel that something wrong is happening
cleared	proved to be innocent

More on this story: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/5297822.stm>

Read and listen to the story and the vocabulary online:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/newsenglish/witn/2009/01/090107_arabic_tshirt.shtml